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fect, this cross was an unusually rich specimen of the jeweller's art of the time. It was found at Callan, county of Kilkenny, and is noticed in the "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society," vol. iii., p. 412.

Mr. Lawless also presented a crucifix and reliquary of silver; a slender crucifix of silver; a collection of 32 amber, 32 jet, 13 variegated glass, 26 opaque, and 203 amber-coloured glass beads.

The thanks of the Academy were returned to the donor.

Catterson Smith, Esq., on the part of Mrs. Tottenham, of Rochfort, county of Westmeath, presented a choice collection of Irish antiquities, consisting of articles in bronze, bone, and wood—42 in number.

The marked thanks of the Academy were returned to Mrs. Tottenham; as also to Mr. Smith, at whose suggestion the gift was made.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1863.

THE VERY REV. CHARLES GRAVES, D.D., President, in the Chair.

Christopher Coppinger, Esq., Q. C.; Patrick W. Joyce, Esq.; Thomas Richardson, M. D., and Captain Meadows Taylor, were duly elected members of the Academy.

The VERY REV. the PRESIDENT read a paper on—

SOME NOTICES OF THE ACTS OF ST. PATRICK, CONTAINED IN THE BOOK OF ARMAGH.

THE conclusions which Dr. Graves endeavours to establish in this paper are the following:—

I. That Muirchu Maccumachteni, the author of the Life of St. Patrick, with which the "Book of Armagh" commences, was the son of Cogitosus.

This conclusion is founded (1) on a necessary and certain emendation of the text in the prologue of Muirchu's Life of St. Patrick. The prologue stands thus in the manuscript:—

"Quoniam quidem, mi domine Aido, multi conati sunt ordinare narrationem utique istam, secundum quod patres eorum et qui ministri ab initio fuerunt sermonis tradiderunt illis, sed propter difficillimum narrationis opus, diversasque opiniones, et plurimorum plurimas suspiciones, nunquam ad unum certumque historiæ tramitem pervenerunt; ideo, ni fallor, juxta hoc nostrorum proverbium, ut deducuntur pueri in amphitheatrum, in hoc *periculosum et profundum narrationis sanctæ pelagus*, turgentibus proterve gurgitum aggeribus, inter acutissimos Charybdes, per ignota æquora insitos, a nullis adhuc lintribus excepto tantum uno patris mei cognito si expertum atque occupatum, *ingenioli mei* puerilem

remi-cymbam deduxi. Sed ne magnum de parvo videar fingere, *pauca hæc de multis* Sancti Patricii gestis, parva peritia, incertis auctoribus, *memoria labili*, attrito sensu, *vili sermone*, sed affectu piissimo caritatis et sanctitatis tuæ et *auctoritatis imperio obediens, carptim* gravatimque *explicare aggrediar.*”

[Here follow the headings of the chapters into which the first Book of Muirchu's Life of St. Patrick is divided; and at the close of them is the following colophon].

“Hæc pauca de Sancti Patricii peritia et virtutibus Muirehu Maccumachteni, dictante Aiduo Slebtinensis civitatis episcopo, conscripsit.”

The change of the words *cognito si* into *Cogitosi* restores meaning to the foregoing passage, which, in its present state, is unintelligible.

The author's conjecture is confirmed (2) by the observation that Machteni is, in its signification, exactly equivalent to Cogitosi. Machtenam is the word which would be chosen to represent the Latin *cogito*.

II. Dr. Graves proceeds to show that the Cogitosus who was father of Muirehu Maccumachteni was the author of the Life of St. Bridget, edited by Colgan, in his “Trias Thaumaturga,” p. 518. This conclusion rests mainly upon a comparison of phrases in Muirchu's prologue, given above, with phrases occurring in the introduction and concluding paragraph of the life of Bridget, by Cogitosus.

The passages referred to are as follows:—

“Cogitis me fratres ut Sanctæ et Beatæ memoriæ Brigidæ virginis virtutes, et opera, more doctorum memoriæ litterisque *tradere aggrediar*. Quod opus impositum, et delicatæ materiæ arduum, parvitatis et ignorantiae meæ, et linguæ minime. Sed potens est Deus de minimis magna facere; ut de exiguo oleo et farinæ pugillo domum implevit pauperculæ viduæ. Itaque *jussionibus vestris coactus, satis habeo meam non defuisse obedientiam*, et ideo, *pauca de pluribus* a majoribus et peritissimis tradita, sine ulla ambiguitatis caligine, ne inobedientiæ crimen incurram, patefacere censeo. Ex quibus quanta qualisque virgo virtutum bonarum florida cunctorum oculis innotescat. Non quod *memoria, et mediocritas, et rusticus sermo ingenioli mei*, tanti muneris officium *explicare* valeret; sed fidei vestræ beatitudo et orationum vestrarum diuturnitas meretur accipere, quod non valet ingenium dictantis. Hæc ergo egregiis crescens virtutibus, ubi per famam bonarum rerum ad eam de omnibus provinciis Hiberniæ innumerabiles populi de utroque sexu confluebant vota sibi voventes voluntarie, suum monasterium caput pene omnium Hiberniensium Ecclesiarum, et culmen præcellens omnia monasteria Scotorum (cujus Parrochia per totam Hiberniensium terram diffusa, a mari usque ad mare extensa est) in campestribus campi Liffei supra fundamentum fidei firmum construxit; et prudenti dispensatione de animabus eorum regulariter in omnibus procurans, et de Ecclesiis multarum provinciarum sibi adhærentibus sollicitans et secum revolvens, quod sine summo sacerdote, qui ecclesias consecraret, et ecclesiasticos in eis gradus subrogaret, esse non posset, illustrem virum et solitarium, omnibus moribus orna-

tum, per quem Deus virtutes operatus est plurimas convocans eum de eremo, et de sua vita solitaria, et sibi obviam pergens, ut ecclesiam in episcopali dignitate cum ea gubernaret, atque ut nihil de ordine sacerdotali in suis deesset ecclesiis, accersivit. Et postea sic unctum caput et principale omnium episcoporum, et beatissima puellarum principalis felici comitatu inter se et gubernaculis omnium virtutum suam erexit principalem ecclesiam; et amborum meritis sua cathedra episcopalis et puellaris, ac si vitis fructifera diffusa undique ramis crescentibus, in tota Hiberniensi insula inolevit. Quam semper Archiepiscopus Hiberniensium Episcoporum, et Abbatissa quam omnes Abbatisse Scotorum venerantur felici successione, et ritu perpetuo dominantur. Exinde ergo, ut supra dixi, a fratribus coactus beatæ hujus virginis Brigidæ virtutes, tam eas quas ante principatum, quam alias in incipatu gessit, multo studio brevitatis, licet præpostero ordine virtutum, *compendiose explicare conabor.*"

"Veniam peto a fratribus et lectoribus hæc legentibus, qui causa obediendi coactus, nulla prærogativa scientiæ suffultus, *pelagus immensum virtutum S. Brigidæ* et viris fortissimis formidandum, *his paucis rustico sermone dictis virtutibus de maximis et innumerabilibus* cucurrim. Orate pro me Cogitoso nepote culpabili, et ut oratione vestra pio Domino me commenditis exoro, et Deus vos pacem evangelicam sectantes exaudiat."

III. We are thus enabled to determine the time at which Cogitosus lived. For the death of Aed, Bishop of Sletty, at whose request Muirchu wrote, is set down in the "Annals of the Four Masters" at the year 798. There is also a passage in the "Book of Armagh" from which it is plain that Aed survived Segene, Abbot of Armagh, who died A. D. 786; but died before Flann Feblai, whose obit is recorded under the date 704. Again, Colman, the son of Muirchu, and Abbot of Moville, died A. D. 731. It may, therefore, be inferred that Cogitosus died about the year 670.

IV. Dr. Graves points out the great importance of thus establishing the time of Cogitosus, as that writer has recorded the condition of architecture, and art in general, in Ireland in his own time ("Vita S. Brigidæ," cap. xxxv.) The objection urged by Dr. Petrie, who was of opinion that Cogitosus must have written after A. D. 799, is obviated by showing that the translation, in that year, of the relics of Bishop Conlaid into a shrine was an occurrence different from his burial under a monument described by Cogitosus.

V. The author shows that the prefix *maccu*, in the name Maccumachteni, is equivalent to the Latin *filiorum*, occurring in the "Book of Armagh" and other very ancient documents. He establishes this by a careful review of the numerous names into which this element enters in the "Book of Armagh," in "Adamnan's Life of St. Columkille," and in inscriptions on monuments.

DESCRIPTION OF AN OAK PILE FOUND IN THE LAKE OF GENEVA.

MR. STARKEY presented to the Academy a wooden pile, which he had himself brought from Switzerland in the month of October, 1862, it having been given to him in the kindest manner by M. Frederic Troyon, the eminent Swiss antiquary, to whom he had been introduced by Mr. Wilde. Mr. Starkey conceived that it might be considered valuable and interesting, not only as an object of antiquity, but as illustrative of the crannoge remains of this country. Along with the pile he presented an explanatory paper, drawn up for him by M. Troyon at the time, of which the following is a translation :—

“This pile I raised on the 15th of September, 1862, from among the lacustrine remains at Thonon, on the Lake of Geneva. The site had been occupied during the stone period, and continued to be so until the end of the bronze period. We find here instruments of stone and of bronze, but none of iron.

“The length of the pile is 4 ft. 4 in.; the thickest end was buried 3 ft. 4 in. in the bottom of the lake; so that the upper end projected only one foot above it. It must be borne in mind, that when the water is at its extreme height, the place from which I drew this stake is sunk 12 feet beneath the surface. The platform supported by these pillars was at least 4 feet above the highest level of the water, so as to allow of the waves passing beneath the planks which supported the huts.

“It follows from hence that this pile must originally have been 20 feet long,—that is, 4 feet in the silt of the lake, 12 feet in the water, and 4 feet above it.

“In many of these sites there may still be seen thousands of the piles which supported the platforms, burnt down, as most of them were, to the surface of the lake at the time when these lacustrine villages were destroyed. It is by degrees, and by the extremely slow action of ages, that the water has worn the piles, which on the sites referable to the bronze period still stand from 1 to 3 feet above the bottom; while on the sites destroyed before that period they are generally worn down to the bed of the lake.

"On the sites occupied during both these periods it is not unusual to see, in close proximity with a pile worn down to the bottom, others which stand up from 2 to 4 feet, having been doubtless renewed during the bronze period."

Mr. Starkey stated that the difficulty of extracting these piles from the bed of the lake, whole and uninjured, is great. A boat is steadied immediately over the place where they appear; a kind of forceps is used, from 12 to 15 feet long, by which the stake selected is seized at the point where it emerges from the silt, rocked gently to-and-fro for some time, and then carefully drawn upwards, from a depth ranging from 10 to 14 feet. The principal cause of the difficulty is the sponginess of that portion of the stake which has been sunk in the silt. It is almost as fragile as a fungus or mushroom, whereas the portion that has been in the water is comparatively sound.

Mr. Starkey stated that he had himself, instructed by M. Troyon, visited one of these sites at Morges, on the north shore of the Lake of Geneva, and distinctly seen, at a depth of about 12 feet, the ranges of piles, extending at unequal intervals, over an area of from 12 to 14 acres. Objects of antiquity, in stone, bronze, horn, &c., are taken up in vast numbers, by means of instruments constructed for the purpose, on or near these sites, of which, as M. Troyon informed Mr. Starkey, there are more than twenty in the Lake of Geneva alone.

The attention of the Academy having been called to the recent death of Professor Siegfried,

It was proposed by the Rev. William Reeves, D. D., and seconded by the Rev. J. H. Todd, D. D., and—

RESOLVED,—That the Academy has received with the deepest regret the intelligence of the lamented death of Professor Siegfried; and, although he was not a member of its body, avails itself of the present opportunity to testify its respect for a scholar of such distinction, who had so cordially made Ireland his home, and her language the favoured subject of his valuable studies.

It was proposed by W. R. Wilde, V. P., and seconded by H. H. Stewart, M. D., and—

RESOLVED,—That the Academy, as a body, attend the funeral of Dr. Siegfried.

The corporation seal of the borough of Belturbet was presented to the Museum of the Academy by the Earl of Belmore.

The thanks of the Academy were returned to Lord Belmore.